



**NORTH DAKOTA**  
DEPARTMENT *of* HEALTH

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## NEWS RELEASE

For Immediate Release:  
Aug. 1, 2008

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**Upham-Area Dog Diagnosed With Rabies**  
***People Who May Have Been Exposed to the Animal Are Urged To Contact  
the Department of Health***

BISMARCK, N.D. – The North Dakota Department of Health and First District Health Unit are advising people in the Upham area that a reddish-tan adult cocker spaniel has been diagnosed with rabies. Records indicate that the dog reportedly was last owned by Ron Jaworski.

The dog resided in a rural area north of Upham and became symptomatic on July 19, 2008. On July 28, laboratory testing indicated the dog had rabies.

People who may have been bitten or otherwise exposed to the saliva of this dog during the period from July 9 through July 24 should contact either **First District Health Unit at 701.852.1376**, the **North Dakota Department of Health at 800.472.2180**, or their physician.

“It is extremely important that people who have been exposed to this animal contact us immediately or call their physician,” said Kirby Kruger, state epidemiologist with the North Dakota Department of Health. “Rabies is a serious disease that can be prevented if treated early.”

Rabies is a viral infection that affects mammals, including people. It can be transmitted through bites and saliva exposure to open cuts and wounds or saliva contact with mucous membranes such as the eyes or mouth. The virus causes swelling of the brain and is almost always fatal. Rabies can be prevented by giving people rabies vaccine after exposures.

More information about rabies is available at [www.health.state.nd.us/disease/Rabies/](http://www.health.state.nd.us/disease/Rabies/).

-- 30 --

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